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VACA VALLEY RADIO CLUB

VACAVILLE CALIFORNIA

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OCTOBER 2003

Christmas Dinner Meeting December 10th at 6:00 PM

JJ North's behind the Fairfield Mall

Standing credits for articles submitted:
K6HEW, Bob, May 03, Jun 03, Oct 03
KF6VBJ, Jim, May 03, Sep 03

Web site credits
KA6FDI, Ralph Jun 03, Sep 03, Oct 03, Nov 04

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NET, VVRC…TUESDAY NIGHTS AT 7:00 PM Local on 145.470

Meetings, VVRC…Second WEDNESDAY of Each month…7:30 at the Vine St. Fire Department…

November 3rd had 15 young people (age 8 to 15) visit the house to do a field trip and be introduced to Amateur Radio.

Bob, K6HEW was in attendance to introduce the Vaca Valley Amateur radio club and the Solano County Emergency services by Amateur Radio Operators.

ARRL's Amateur Radio Today CD was showed featuring Walter Cronkite, KB2GSD. It sure made it easy to present the capabilities of Amateur Radio.

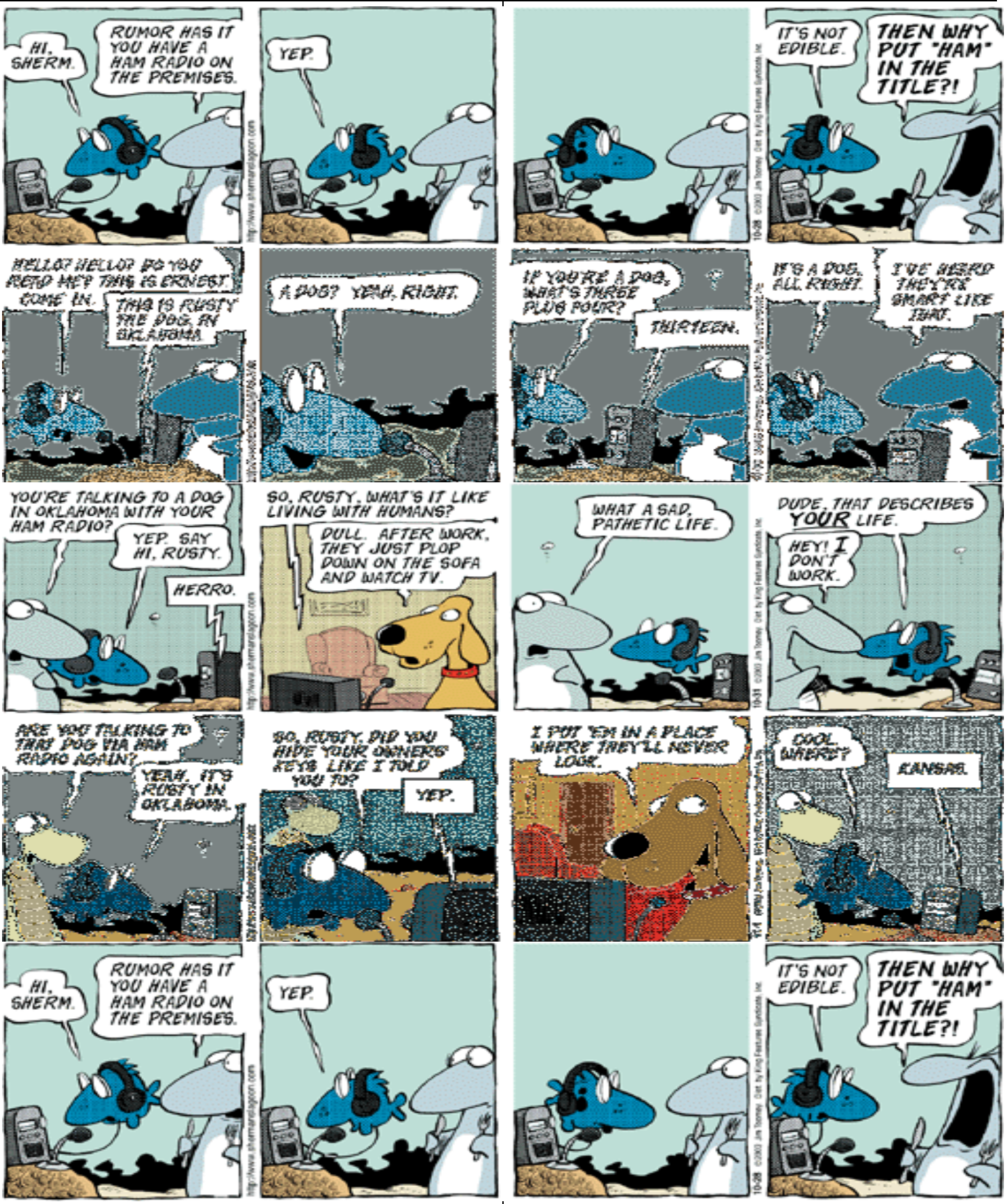
We gave a brief introduction to Amateur History, a tour of the antenna farm and the station. Intros to EME, QRZ, and IRLP were completed with lots of new vocabulary words… hi hi

Darrin, KG6FJL President and Emergency Coordinator of the YARS and Yolo county was also available to answer questions and facilitate the introduction.

It goes without say that a great presentation was given and a very good possibility of teaching a class was suggested.

Thanks to both Bob and Darrin for their great help.

73 Larry, W6OMF


HI, SHERM.
RUMOR HAS IT YOU HAVE A HAM RADIO ON THE PREMISES.
YEP.
IT'S NOT EDIBLE.
THEN WHY PUT "HAM" IN THE TITLE?!
HELLO? HELLO? DO YOU READ ME? THIS IS ERNEST. COME IN.
THIS IS RUSTY THE DOG, IN OKLAHOMA.
A DOG? YEAH, RIGHT.
IF YOU'RE A DOG, WHAT'S THREE PLUS FOUR?
THIRTEEN.
IT'S A DOG. ALL RIGHT.
I'VE HEARD THEY'RE SMART LIKE THAT.
YOU'RE TALKING TO A DOG IN OKLAHOMA WITH YOUR HAM RADIO?
YEP. SAY HI, RUSTY.
HERRO.
SO, RUSTY, WHAT'S IT LIKE LIVING WITH HUMANS?
DULL. AFTER WORK, THEY JUST PLOP DOWN ON THE SOFA AND WATCH TV.
WHAT A SAD, PATHETIC LIFE.
DUDE, THAT DESCRIBES YOUR LIFE.
HEY! I DON'T WORK.
ARE YOU TALKING TO THAT DOG VIA HAM RADIO AGAIN?
YEAH, IT'S RUSTY IN OKLAHOMA.
SO, RUSTY, DID YOU HIDE YOUR OWNERS' KEYS LIKE I TOLD YOU TO?
YEP.
I PUT 'EM IN A PLACE WHERE THEY'LL NEVER LOOK.
COOL. WHERE?
KANSAS.
HI, SHERM.
RUMOR HAS IT YOU HAVE A HAM RADIO ON THE PREMISES.
YEP.
IT'S NOT EDIBLE.
THEN WHY PUT "HAM" IN THE TITLE?!

Thanks to Tom, KE6MDM for sharing some great humor.

The Q Code came into being internationally in 1912 to overcome the language problems involved in communications by radio among ships and shore stations of all countries. The original list of 50 adopted by international agreement in London contain many which are still familiar to amateur operators-QRN, QRM, QSO, the traffic operator's QRK, QSY and QRV -are now well past the half-century mark in continuous usage. QSL still has the official 1912 definition despite the changed informal usages it is subjected to in amateur parlance.

The QN signals for amateur net operation were introduced in the late 1930s by W1UE (now W4IA) to lighten the burdens of net control operators.

The telegraph call CQ was born on the English Telegraph nearly a century ago as a signal meaning "All stations. A notification to all postal telegraph offices to receive the message." Its meaning was close to the present meanings of QNC and QST. Like many other telegraph terms which originated on the landlines, CQ was brought over into radio and used as a general call to all ships by the Marconi Company. Other companies used KA until the London Convention of 1912, which adopted CQ as the international general call or "attention" signal. CQ still means, literally, "attention" but in amateur radio its meaning is perhaps more accurately described by Thomas Raddell who compared it to yelling "Hey, Mac!" down a drain pipe.

But why the letters CQ? From the French, sécurité, (safety or, as intended here, pay attention)

The traditional expression "73" goes right back to the beginning of the landline telegraph days. It is found in some of the earliest editions of the numerical codes , each with a different definition, but each with the same idea in mind--it indicated that the end, or signature, was coining up. But there are no data to prove that any of these were used.

The first authentic use of 73 is in the publication The National Telegraph Review and Operators' Guide, first published in April 1857. At that time, 73 meant "My love to you!" Succeeding issues of this publication continued to use this definition of the term. Curiously enough, some of the other numerals then used have the same definition now that they had then, but within a short time, the use of 73 began to change.

In the National Telegraph Convention, the numeral was changed from the Valentine-type sentiment to a vague sign of fraternalism. Here, 73 was a greeting, a friendly "word" between operators and it was so used on all wires.

In 1859, the Western Union Company set up the standard "92 Code". A list of numerals from one to 92 was compiled to indicate a series of prepared phrases for use by the operators on the wires. Here, in the 92 Code, 73 changes from a fraternal sign to a very flowery "accept my compliments," which was in keeping with the florid language of that era.

Over the years from 1859 to 1900, the many manuals of telegraphy show variations of this meaning. Dodge's *The Telegraph Instructor* shows it merely as "compliments." *The Twentieth Century Manual of Railway and Commercial Telegraphy* defines it two ways, one listing as "my compliments to you;" but in the glossary of abbreviations it is merely "compliments." Theodore A. Edison's *Telegraphy Self-Taught* shows a return to "accept my compliments." By 1908, however, a later edition of the Dodge Manual gives us today's definition of "best regards" with a backward look at the older meaning in another part of the work where it also lists it as "compliments."

"Best regards" has remained ever since as the "put-it-down-in-black-and-white" meaning of 73 but it has acquired overtones of much warmer meaning. Today, amateurs use it more in the manner that James Reid had intended that it be used --a "friendly word between operators."

The amateur distress call, QRRR, grew from the purpose of the first organized amateur emergency nets. They were set up in cities along the Pennsylvania Railroad to aid the "Pennsy" (and later other railroads) with train communications in the event of failure of the railroad telegraph landlines--which were frequent. The signal QRR came to be used to indicate that the calling station had railroad traffic related to some emergency. ARRL eventually adopted this call for use by any amateur who had distress traffic and later the call was changed to QRRR because of a conflict in definitions with the international Q signal QRR.

One of the first distress calls was CQD, coined by the Marconi Company about 1904 from the "general call" CQ and the letter D for "distress." The main problem with CQD was that it was supposed to be used only by ships which subscribed to the Marconi radio system and ships of one system were discouraged from communicating with ships or shore stations of other, competing, companies. The problem got so bad that it was taken up in the international radio conference in 1906 where a new universal distress call was proposed.

The American delegation suggested the letters NC which were already recognized in the International Signal Code for Visual Signaling. The German delegation proposed its own SOE which was already in use on German ships as a general inquiry signal similar to CQ (which was then used only by the Marconi system). The British delegation, of course, wanted to stick to the Marconi signal CQD.

The convention found SOE acceptable except that the final E could easily be lost in QRN so the letter S was substituted, making it SOS. The convention decided that SOS should be sent as a single code character with a sound unlike any other character, thus arresting the attention of anyone hearing it. So was officially adopted, but CQD remained in use for some years, particularly aboard British ships.

It wasn't until 1912, after the Titanic disaster, that SOS became universal and the use of CQD gradually disappeared. Titanic radio operator Jack Phillips sent both CQD and SOS to be sure that there couldn't possibly be any misunderstanding.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	*3*	*4* *VVRC net* *7:00 pm* *145.470*	*6*	*6*	*7*	*8*
9	*10*	*11* *VVRC net* *7:00 pm* *145.470*	*12* *VVRC MEETING* *7:30*	*13*	*14*	*15*
16	*17*	*18* *VVRC net* *7:00 pm* *145.470*	*19*	*20*	*21*	*22*
23/30	*24*	*25* *VVRC net* *7:00 pm* *145.470*	*26*	*27*	*28*	*29*

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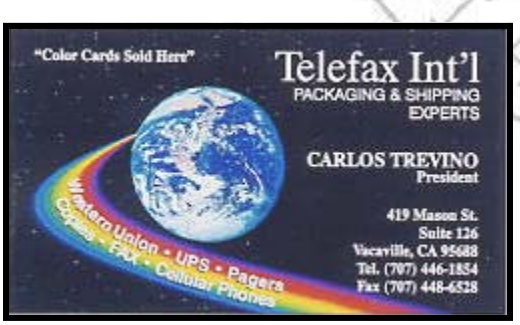

Classy Classifieds

Visit the Repeater online courtesy of Bob K6HEW at:
http://users.cwnet.com/hewbob/vvrc
Club repeater in Vacaville:WD6BUS 145.470 MHz(-) pl 127.3
Additional local repeaters
WV6F 224.200(-) WV6F 440.025(+) WV6F 1291.900(-)

SUMMARY OF THE FINANCIAL REPORT
AS OF SEPTEMBER 10, 2003

GENERAL FUND	$	1262.96
REPEATER FUND	$	389.16
PRIZE FUND	$	136.50
TOTAL	$	1788.62

THE VVRC WELCOMES YOU

The Repeater is Published by the Vaca Valley Radio Club 419 Mason Street, Suite 126 Drawer 521 Vacaville CA 95688 An ARRL Affiliated Club. Founded 1987, Chartered 1988 General Meetings: 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7:30 PM 420 Vine Street Fire Station.

Wheelchair accessible

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Canada to consider dropping Code

Radio Amateurs of Canada asks Industry Canada to drop Morse requirement: At the 21st Industry Canada-Radio Amateurs of Canada Amateur Radio Advisory Board meeting October 23 in Ottawa, RAC presented its Board-approved recommendation to drop Morse code as an Amateur Radio qualification requirement. Other topics raised at the session included options for consideration related to four-character call sign suffixes; RACs submission to the Committee on the National Antenna Tower Policy Review; and RAC's efforts to bring more young people into Amateur Radio through the RAC Youth Education Program, which was introduced and discussed. Industry Canada invited RAC to submit detailed proposals on dropping Morse code and the use of four-character call signs. Industry Canada expressed appreciation to RAC for its prompt and comprehensive response to the department's request for input on significant changes to regulations arising out of the WRC-2003 decisions. Representing RAC was President Bill Gillis, VE1WG, Vice President-Regulatory Affairs Jim Dean, VE3IQ, and directors David Nimmo, VE1NN, and BJ Madsen, VE5FX.

After completing 43 years of publication, *73 Amateur Radio Today* magazine is calling it quits. Plans to publish a joint October/November issue fell through this week, and the September 2003 issue was the magazine's last. The first issue of *73* was published in October 1960. Truly a great asset to the amateur community and it will be sorely missed...

Don't forget the meeting. Christmas is just around the corner and looking for all at the annual dinner… 73 Larry

FOR SALE: Kenwood TS-450/S HF TRANSCEIVER. AM/FM/SSB/CW. DUAL VFO'S. 100W. INCLUDES BOTH OPERATING AND MAINTENANCE MANUALS; MC-80 BASE MICROPHONE, KENWOOD PS-50 POWER SUPPLY. MOBILE MIKE. $425/00 FIRM. CALL DON W6ROY AT 707 451-2134 IF YOU NEED MORE INFO

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MEMBER Dues	$15.00	_____
Each Family Member	$ 2.00	_____
Associate dues	$15.00	_____
Student	$ 5.00	_____
Repeater/Autopatch donation		_____
Call/Name badge	$ 6.00	_____

Total_____

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